

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

survey results summary issued twice monthly by the USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

Issue: 06-01 Released: January 12, 2006

HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings Late Season Crops and Hay Stocks Pulse and Oilseed Crops Production December 1Grain Stocks Ag Prices Received

Winter Wheat Seedings 2006 Crop Year

Montana producers seeded 2.0 million acres of winter wheat last fall for the 2006 crop year, down 150,000 acres or 7 percent from the revised 2005 winter wheat planting of 2.15 million acres.

Winter wheat seeding began last September with planting pace ahead of normal due to the good planting conditions. Winter wheat seeding reached 98 percent by October 23rd, ahead of the five-year average of 96 percent. Winter wheat condition at the end of December was better than a year ago and the five-year average. Conditions at the end of December were rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 36% fair, 44% good, and 17% excellent compared with 8% very poor, 15% poor, 43% fair, 33% good, and 1% excellent a year ago.

In the United States, winter wheat planted area for harvest in 2006 is estimated at 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from 2005. The winter wheat crop condition at the end of November was rated at 52 percent good to excellent compared with 76 percent last year. Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is about 29.9 million acres, down 1 percent from 2005. Soft Red Winter (SRW) area, at about 7.3 million acres, is up 19 percent from last year. White Winter wheat seeded area totals nearly 4.2 million acres, down 1 percent from 2005.

2005 Row Crop Summary

Montana producers planted 65,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2005, down 5,000 acres from 2004. There were 63,000 acres harvested for all purposes in 2005, down 3,000 acres from 2004. Corn harvested for grain, at 17,000 acres, was 2,000 acres higher than a year ago. The average yield tied the previous record high at 148.0 bushels per acre, 5 bushels higher than last year. Grain production increased 17 percent above a year ago to 2.52 million bushels. Corn for silage harvested acres, at 46,000 acres, decreased 5,000 acres from last year. Corn silage yield tied the previous record high of 24 tons per acre, 2 tons per acre more than a year ago. The total corn for silage production was 1.10 million tons,

down 2 percent from a year ago.

Sugar beet producers in Montana planted 53,900 acres in 2005, up 200 acres from the previous year. Harvested acreage amounted to 49,900 acres, down 2,200 acres from 2004. Yield increased 1.2 tons per acre from last year to average 22.9 tons per acre. Total production of 1.14 million tons, was up 1 percent from the previous year. Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.43 million cwt, down 3 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,900 acres, 300 acres more than 2004. Potato yields decreased 20.0 cwt per acre from a year ago to 315.0 cwt per acre.

All hay harvested in Montana was up 500,000 acres from last year, to 3.00 million acres, setting a new record high. All hay production was also a new record high at 5.85 million tons, up 23 percent from a year ago. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage was 1.75 million, up 25 percent from last season, setting a new record high. The average yield was 2.20 tons per acre, which is 0.10 tons per acre lower than the previous year. Alfalfa hay production was 3.85 million tons, up 20 percent from last year. Other hay harvested was 1.25 million acres, up 14 percent from 2004. The average yield was 1.60 tons per acre, up 0.20 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production was 2.0 million tons, up 30 percent from last year. Montana hay stocks were estimated at 5.44 million tons on December 1, up 23 percent from last year.

U.S. **corn for grain** production is estimated at 11.1 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the November forecast but down 6 percent from the 11.8 billion bushels produced in 2004. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 147.9 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from the November forecast and down 12.5 bushels from 2004. The 2005 production and yield estimates are the second largest on record, behind last year. Area harvested for grain, at 75.1 million acres, is up 2 percent from 2004.

Sugar beets production in the United States is estimated at 27.7 million tons, 1 percent above the November 1 forecast but 8 percent below last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing States harvested 1.24 million acres, 5 percent less than last year's 1.31 million acre. Yield is estimated at 22.3 tons per acre, 0.3 ton above November but 0.7 ton below the 2004 yield.

U.S. all hay production for 2005 is estimated at 151 million tons, down 1

percent from the October 1 forecast and down 5 percent from the 2004 total. Area harvested, at 61.6 million acres, is down slightly from the October forecast and down less than 1 percent from 2004. The average yield, at 2.44 tons per acre, is down 0.04 ton from October and down 0.11 ton from the previous year.

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures production in 2005 for the U.S. totaled 75.8 million tons, down slightly from the October 1 forecast but up slightly from 2004. Harvested area, at 22.4 million acres, is 1 percent above October and 3 percent above the previous year. Yields averaged 3.38 tons per acre, down 0.05 ton from the October forecast and down 0.10 ton from the 2004 yield.

U.S. All other hay production in 2005 totaled 74.8 million tons, down 3 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 10 percent from the 2004 total. Area for harvest, at 39.3 million acres, is down 1 percent from the October forecast and 2 percent below last year. The average yield is estimated at 1.91 tons per acre, down 0.15 ton from last year's record high yield.

2005 Pulse Crop Summary

Montana's dry bean growers produced 282,000 cwt in 2005, down 1 percent from last year. Producers planted 18,000 acres of beans this year, 5,000 acres above last year. Growers harvested 14,100 acres, which yielded 2,000 lbs. per acre, compared with last year's 12,700 acres harvested and the average yield of 2,240 lbs. per acre. Pinto bean production in 2005 was 239,000 cwt, which is 5 percent below last year. Planted acreage was 12,000, up 1,200 acres from last year. Harvested acreage, at 10,000 acres, is 6 percent below the previous year. The yield was 2,390 lbs. per acre, which is 10 pounds per acre more than last year. Garbanzo beans production, at 43,000 cwt, is 30 percent above last year. Planted acreage was 6,000, up from 2,200 acres last year. Harvested area was 4,100 acres, 2,000 acres above last year. The yield was 1,050 pounds per acre, down from last year's 1,570 pounds per acre. Small garbanzo beans producers planted 1,400 acres, of which 1,300 were harvested, with a yield of 1,150 lbs. per acre. Total production was 15,000 cwt for 2005. Large garbanzo beans producers planted 4,600 acres and harvested 2,800 acres, with a yield of 1,000 lbs. per acre. Total production of large garbanzo beans was 28,000 cwt.

(continued on back page)

December 1, 2005 Grain Stocks

Stocks of **all wheat** in Montana on December 1, 2005 were 151.6 million bushels, up 9 percent from December 1, 2004. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 129.0 million bushels, up 11 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted to 22.6 million bushels, down 4 percent from the previous year. All wheat disappearance for the September - November 2005 quarter was up 10 percent from the same quarter last year to 50.6 million bushels, compared with 46.1 million a year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 2005 were 37.7 million bushels, down 2 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on farms was 28.0 million bushels, down 3 percent from last year. Off-farm barley storage was up 4 percent from a year ago at 9.7 million bushels. All barley disappearance for the September - November 2004 quarter was 8.6 million bushels, down 21 percent from 11.0 million bushels a year ago.

Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.97 million bushels, down 3 percent from last year. On-farm oat stocks were 1.9 million bushels, unchanged from a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were down 46 percent from last year to 70,000 bushels.

The on-farm **storage capacity** of all storage facilities in Montana, normally used for storing grain, was estimated to be 330 million bushels, unchanged from a year ago. There were 162 off-farm storage

facilities in Montana on December 1, 2005. The storage capacity of off farm facilities was 74.0 million bushels, up 11 percent from a year ago.

U.S. **all wheat** stored in all positions on December 1, 2005 totaled 1.43 billion bushels, down slightly from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 513 million bushels, down 3 percent from last December. Off-farm stocks, at 917 million bushels, are up 2 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2005 indicated disappearance is 494 million bushels, down 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in the United States in all positions on December 1, 2005 totaled 81.4 million bushels, up 4 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 57.7 million bushels, are up 11 percent from December 1, 2004. Off-farm stocks totaled 23.7 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2005 indicated disappearance of 20.0 million bushels is up 60 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on December 1, 2005 totaled 208 million bushels, down 15 percent from December 1, 2004. On-farm stocks are estimated at 104 million bushels, 21 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 104 million bushels, are 9 percent below December 2004. The September - November 2005 indicated disappearance is 46.9 million bushels, 6 percent above the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions in the United States on December 1, 2005 totaled 95.7 million bushels, 9 percent below the stocks on December 1, 2004. Of the total stocks on hand, 60.1 million bushels are stored on farms, down slightly from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 35.6 million bushels, down 20 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during September - November 2005 totaled 17.8 million bushels, up 64 percent from the same period a year ago.

U.S. **corn** stocks in all positions on December 1, 2005 totaled 9.81 billion bushels, up 4 percent from December 1, 2004. Of the total stocks, 6.33 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.49 billion bushels, are up 5 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2005 indicated disappearance is 3.41 billion bushels, compared with 3.31 billion bushels during the same period last year.

The United States on-farm storage capacity totaled 11.4 billion bushels on December 1, 2005, up 1 percent from December 1, 2004. Iowa continues to lead all States in on-farm storage capacity with 1.72 billion bushels, followed by Illinois with 1.26 billion bushels and Minnesota with 1.25 billion bushels. Other major States include Nebraska with 1.05 billion bushels and North Dakota with 740 million bushels of on-farm storage capacity. These five States account for 53 percent of the Nation's on-farm storage capacity.

December 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and		MONT	TANA	UNITED STATES					
POSITION	Dec. 1, 2004	Sep. 1, 2005*	Dec. 1, 2005	'05/'04	Dec. 1, 2004	Sep. 1, 2005*	Dec. 1, 2005		
	Thousand Bushels Percent					Thousand Bushels			
ALL WHEAT 2/									
On Farms	116,000	175,000	129,000	111%	531,020	721,360	513,000		
Off Farms 1/	23,640	27,180	22,590	96%	899,306	1,201,931	916,531		
TOTAL	139,640	202,180	151,590	109%	1,430,326	1,923,291	1,429,531		
DURUM WHEAT 3/									
On Farms 4/					51,800	70,200	57,700		
Off Farms 1/, 4/					26,805	31,135	23,684		
TOTAL					78,605	101,335	81,384		
BARLEY									
On Farms	29,000	37,000	28,000	97%	130,700	137,400	103,650		
Off Farms 1/	9,340	9,310	9,670	104%	115,276	117,511	104,335		
TOTAL	38,340	46,310	37,670	98%	245,976	254,911	207,985		
OATS									
On Farms	1,900	2,200	1,900	100%	60,400	71,700	60,100		
Off Farms 1/	130	120	70	54%	44,513	41,803	35,635		
TOTAL	2,030	2,320	1,970	97%	104,913	113,503	95,735		
CORN									
On Farms					6,144,000	820,500	6,325,000		
Off Farms 1/					3,308,488	1,293,472	3,487,835		
TOTAL					9,452,488	2,113,972	9,812,835		

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

November 2005 Ag Prices Received

November full month crop prices were higher compared with October 2005. Montana's winter wheat average price was \$3.39 per bushel, unchanged from October; spring wheat increased \$0.08 to \$3.73 per bushel; but durum wheat prices decreased \$0.22 to \$3.36 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased \$0.02 from October to \$1.66 per bushel, but malt barley prices dropped \$0.07 to \$3.03 per bushel.

The mid-December price for alfalfa hay decreased \$5.00 from November to \$67.00 per ton and all other hay dropped \$8.00 to \$66.00 per ton. mid-December grain prices were mostly higher than November with winter wheat at \$3.43 per bushel; spring wheat was \$3.73 per bushel; durum wheat was \$3.55 per bushel; and malt barley was \$3.18 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were higher than October. In fact, steers and heifers and beef cattle

prices reached new record highs. Steer and heifer prices rose \$2.00 to \$121.00 per cwt; cows increased \$2.20 to \$49.90. The calf price jumped \$5.00 to \$143.00 per cwt. Sheep prices rose \$3.40 to \$46.00 per cwt and lamb prices increased \$5.00 to \$124.00 per cwt. Milk prices rose \$0.20 per cwt from last month to \$15.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December were \$120.00 per cwt; cows were \$49.90 per cwt; calves were \$146.00 per cwt, a new record high; and milk prices were \$16.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for November and changes from October were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.29, down \$0.04; spring wheat was \$3.73, up \$0.11; durum wheat was \$3.25, down \$0.15; the all barley price was \$2.64, up \$0.23; steer and heifer prices were \$97.30, up \$0.70 per cwt; cows were \$46.00 per cwt, down \$0.60; and calves were \$133.00 per cwt, down \$1.00 from October.

The U.S. mid-December winter wheat price was \$3.30 per bushel; spring wheat

was \$3.71 per bushel; durum wheat was \$3.33 per bushel; malt barley was \$2.86 per bushel; and feed barley was \$1.70 per bushel. Mid-December steer and heifer prices were \$99.10 per cwt; cow prices were \$46.60; calves were \$135.00 per cwt; all hog prices were \$45.50 per cwt; and all egg prices were \$0.719 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from November. The Crop Index is up 4 points (3.8 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 2 points (1.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, corn, strawberries, and lettuce. Lower prices were received for oranges, broilers, dairy, and grapes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of dairy, wheat, oranges, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	November 2004	December 2004	November 2005	December 2005			
Prices Received Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/ Ratio 2/	115 135 85	111 134 83	113 143 79	114 143 80			
1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.							

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	U N I T	Monthly Average			Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average		
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Nov. 2004	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Nov. 2005	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2004	Dec. 15, 2005	Dec. 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat Durum Wheat Spring Wheat All Wheat Barley, All Feed Barley Malt Barley Oats	Bu. Bu. Bu. Bu. Bu. Bu. Bu. Bu. Bu.	3.48 3.85 3.86 3.72 2.92 1.69 na	3.39 3.58 3.65 3.51 2.74 1.64 3.10 1.80	3.39 3.36 3.73 3.53 2.91 1.66 3.03 na	3.29 3.25 3.73 3.47 2.64 1.77 2.93 1.63	nc -0.22 +0.08 +0.02 +0.17 +0.02 -0.07 na	-0.09 -0.49 -0.13 -0.19 -0.01 -0.03 na	3.43 3.55 3.73 3.56 3.04 na 3.18	3.30 3.33 3.71 3.47 2.54 1.70 2.86 1.73
Alfalfa Hay All Other Hay All Hay Baled	Ton Ton Ton	78.00 69.00 76.00	75.00 67.00 74.00	72.00 74.00 72.00	97.50 76.30 91.70	-3.00 +7.00 -2.00	-6.00 +5.00 -4.00	67.00 66.00 67.00	97.70 78.00 92.00
Steers & Heifers Cows Beef Cattle 1/ Calves Sheep 2/ Lambs 2/ All Milk	Cwt Cwt Cwt Cwt Cwt Cwt Cwt	110.00 49.30 88.10 126.00 45.30 116.00 15.60	119.00 47.70 105.00 138.00 42.60 119.00 15.40	121.00 49.90 108.00 143.00 46.00 124.00 15.60	97.30 46.00 91.30 133.00 45.40 107.00 15.10	+2.00 +2.20 +3.00 +5.00 +3.40 +5.00 +0.20	+11.00 +0.60 +19.90 +17.00 +0.70 +8.00 nc	120.00 49.90 103.00 146.00 na na 16.30	99.10 46.60 92.70 135.00 na na 14.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

2005 Pulse Crop Summary

Dry edible pea production for 2005 in Montana was 2,196,000 cwt, up 73 percent from a year ago. This is the largest dry edible pea production on record. Records began in 1928, however, estimates were discontinued during 1958 to 1997. Planted and harvested acreage were 135,000 and 122,000, respectively. Last year growers planted 68,000 acres and harvested 63,000. Dry pea yield for 2005 was 18.0 cwt per acre, compared with 20.1 cwt last year. Austrian winter pea production in 2005 was 159,000 cwt, up from last year's 99,000. Planted acreage was 25,000 acres, up 11,000 acres from 2004. Harvested acreage, at 13,000, was 2,000 acres higher than the previous year. The yield was 12.2 cwt per acre in 2005, compared with 9.0 cwt a year ago.

Montana's 2005 **lentils** production was 1,869,000 cwt, up 85 percent from a year ago. This is the largest production since estimates of lentil production began in 1998. Planted area was 150,000 acres and harvested acres were 146,000 acres. Last year, the planted and harvested acres were 78,000 and 72,000, respectively. Lentil yield for 2005 was 12.8 cwt per acre, down 1.2 cwt per acre from a year ago.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is estimated at 27.2 million cwt for 2005, up less than 1 percent from the December forecast and 53 percent above last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1.56 million acres, virtually unchanged from the last forecast but 28 percent above 2004. The average U.S. yield is estimated at 1,742 pounds per acre, an increase of 11 pounds from the December forecast and 283 pounds above a year ago. Production is up from a year ago for small and large chickpeas.

Production of **dry edible peas** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington is estimated at 14.0 million cwt for 2005, up 1 percent from the November 1 forecast and up 23 percent from 2004. Area harvested, at 765,900 acres, is up 1 percent from the previous forecast and 51 percent above last year. Average yield, at 1,828 pounds per acre, increased 15 pounds from the November 1 forecast but is 421 pounds below 2004.

Austrian winter peas production in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon for the 2005 season is estimated at 307,000 cwt, down 5 percent from the November 1 forecast but 5

percent above 2004. Area harvested, at 24,500 acres, is 11 percent below the previous forecast but unchanged from last season. Average yield, at 1,253 pounds per acre, increased 75 pounds from the November 1 forecast and is 65 pounds above 2004.

U.S. **lentils** production in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 5.16 million cwt for 2005, up 1 percent from the November 1 forecast and 23 percent above 2004. Planted area, at 450,000 acres, remains unchanged from the previous forecast but is 30 percent above the previous season. Harvested area, at 439,000 acres, is 2 percent above the November 1 forecast and 33 percent above last year. Average yield per acre, at 1,176 pounds, is 5 pounds below November's forecast and 95 pounds below last year.

2005 Oilseed Summary

Montana's **flaxseed** production in 2005 was 918,000 bushels, up from 342,000 bushels a year ago. Growers planted 55,000 acres and harvested 54,000 acres in 2005, compared with 20,000 acres planted and 19,000 acres harvested in 2004. The average yield for 2005 was 17.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel per acre from the previous year.

Production of **mustard seed** for 2005 was 6.26 million pounds, compared with 7.98 million in 2004. Planted acres were 11,500, unchanged from last year. Harvested acres were 10,800, compared with 11,400 acres in 2004. Mustard seed yields averaged 580 pounds per acre in 2005, down 120 pounds per acre from a year ago.

Montana **canola** growers planted 17,000 acres in 2005, 2,000 acres more than 2004. Harvested acreage was 16,500 acres, up 1,500 acres from last year. The 2005 canola yield was 1,290 pounds per acre, down 300 pounds per acre from a year ago.

Growers produced 25.81 million pounds of **safflower**, up 22 percent from last year. Safflower planted acres in Montana totaled 30,000, with 29,000 acres harvested. Yield was 890 pounds per acre, up 210 pounds per acre from last year. Last year there were 33,500 acres planted and 31,000 acres harvested.

Montana's 2004 all **sunflower** production was 7.36 million pounds, compared with

4.39 million pounds produced in 2004. Producers in the state planted 6,800 acres and harvested 6,400 acres in 2005, compared with 5,000 planted acres and 4,500 harvested acres last year. The average yield was 1,150 pounds per acre for 2005, up 175 pounds per acre from last year.

U.S. flaxseed production in 2005 totaled 19.7 million bushels, up 90 percent from the previous year to the highest level since 1970. The average U.S. yield is estimated at 20.6 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushels from 2004. Planted area for the 2005 crop is estimated at 983,000 acres, up 88 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 955,000 acres, is 87 percent above 2004. Both planted and harvested acres are the highest since 1977.

U.S. safflower production in 2005, at 193 million pounds, increased less than 1 percent from 2004. Growers planted 165,000 acres in 2005, a decrease of 6 percent from last year, while harvested area is 160,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from the previous year. The yield, at 1,203 pounds per acre, decreased 1 pound from 2004. This is the first time State-level estimates have been published in the Crop Production annual summary.

Mustard seed production in 2005 for the United States declined 38 percent from last year to 35.1 million pounds, continuing the downward trend that began in 2002. Planted area, at 49,000 acres, is down 33 percent and harvested area, at 44,600 acres, is down 35 percent from 2004. Mustard seed yields averaged 787 pounds per acre, 32 pounds below a year ago.

U.S. canola production in 2005 is 1.58 billion pounds, up 18 percent from 2004. The canola yield, at 1,419 pounds per acre, is down 199 pounds from last year's record high yield. Area planted is estimated at 1.16 million acres, 34 percent above last year's acreage. Harvested area, at 1.11 million acres, is up 35 percent from 2004.

The 2005 U.S. **sunflower** production totaled 4.02 billion pounds, up 96 percent from 2004 and 51 percent above 2003. The U.S. average yield per acre increased 342 pounds from 2004 to a record high 1,540 pounds. Planted area, at 2.71 million acres, is 45 percent above last year and the highest area since 2000. Acreage harvested increased 53 percent from last year to 2.61 million acres, the highest acreage since 2000.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wheat Supply & Demand -ERS Annual Crop Production Potato Stocks Quarterly Milk Production Cattle on feed Red Meat Production

Peggy Stringer, Director
John Hilton, Deputy Director
Wendy Bruski, Editor
10 W. 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, Montana 59626
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612
www.nass.usda.gov/mt/
nass-mt@nass.usda.gov